

THE HISTORY OF THE ANDIJAN AND BEKABAD PRISONERS' CAMPS ESTABLISHED AFTER WORLD WAR II

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ABSTRACT

The article contains analytical data obtained as a result of field research, scientific literature and analytical work carried out in the Andijan provincial prisoner-of-war camps in Uzbekistan and near the town of Bekabad, archival documents on conditions and internal regulations, sanitary and hygienic environment, types of economic activities in the camps, the work of prisoners of war, their memories and the kindness of the Uzbek people to them are studied and discussed.

Keywords: archive materials, Japanese prisoners of war, military camps, guards, memories, special hospital, camp conditions, security system.

1. INTRODUCTION

Many camps for prisoners of war were organized in Uzbekistan on the instructions of the USSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD). These camps are surrounded by a wall 2.5 meters high, and inside and outside the walls are lined with 7 rows of barbed wire at a distance of 5 meters. Dormitories for prisoners and other facilities (outpatient clinic, bathroom, laundry room, bakery, shop, workshop, etc.) were located inside the camp. The dormitories of the administrative building and security services of the camp were located outside the camp. Prisoners were strictly forbidden to leave or live outside the camp.

According to the Imprisonment Act, the following divisions existed in each POW camp [1].

1. Executive office, office for an institution or organization;
2. Special section;
3. Political Governance Department;
4. Accounting and Distribution Division;
5. Economic Division;
6. Finance Division;
7. Sanitary department;
8. Special internal security section;
9. Fire safety department.

Health Camp No. 26 in Andijan region of Uzbekistan was founded in 1943 and is located in two subdivisions: in the village of *Chuama* of Izbaskan district and the city of South Alamushuk.

2. MAIN PART

The camp, located in the village of *Chuama*, had a capacity of about 2500 prisoners. The camp was organized on the basis of a penal colony in the Izboskansky district of Andijan province.

With the help of prisoners of war, the camp carried out basic landscaping and planting work. The drinking water networks in the camp have also been repaired and a swimming pool, summer recreation areas and shelters have been built. Flowerbeds and lawns have been created.

There are 1,850 double beds in the camp to transport a total of 1,850 people in total were provided to the buildings of the camp. The camp had a living area of 1.5–2 m per person, a hospital with 100 beds, a kitchen as well as a bakery and a small power station.

Camp buildings 50 and 58 were intended for internal detention, and in those buildings, inmates who had committed disorders were temporarily detained as punishment. After the end of their sentences, they were released from the camp, on condition that they no longer violate the law.

In winter, stoves were used as a means of heating the premises. The water supply to the camp was carried out on the basis of water from the Stalin and Mailisai rivers. The water was first filtered out and transferred for consumption only after passing through chlorination devices. During the winter months, the camp did not have enough water due to a drop in water levels in the rivers. The technical condition of the camp was satisfactory.

The task of protecting prisoners of war in the camp was performed by the 47th Guards Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In order to prevent escape from the camp among the prisoners, assistance teams within a radius of 50 kilometres were formed as security measures around the camp. These teams were regularly trained in firearms. There was no escape from the camp during Camp 26, and when escape attempts were made, appropriate measures were taken to prevent an escape.

There were 10 trucks in the camp. The annual fuel requirement for the camp was 2,500 tons of coal. The camp's heating system mainly used coal, while in other cases liquid petroleum fuel was used in the canteen, power station, bathrooms and furnaces for daily needs. The production of fuel was carried out under very difficult conditions. Due to the shortage of coal supplied by the centre and the high

demand for coal, they were forced to extract coal from the Kok Yangak field [160], located 160 km from the camp, and transport it to the camp using an outdated vehicle.

Farhod camp No 288, located 200 km from Tashkent near Bekabad, operated from September 1945 to December 1949. The camp could accommodate up to 10,500 people. The camp had a central hospital with 100 beds.

In autumn 1945, a total of 4445 Japanese prisoners captured as a result of the Soviet-Japanese war were brought to the camp on three trains from the Far East. In addition, 2,391 German prisoners captured during the war with Nazi Germany were taken from camps throughout the country. The wars with Germany and Japan brought the number of prisoners of war in the camp to 6,000.

This prison camp is located near the construction site of the Farhodskaya Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP), within a radius of 8-10 km, and the administrative building of the camp is 1 km from the Khilkovo railway station. The prisoners mainly participated in the construction of canals and dams at the Farhodskaya HPP.

Types of prisoners held in prison camp No. 288 in different years: [5].

Nationality and Status of Prisoners	1945			1946		1947		1948		Prisoners
	Japanese	Germans	Italians	Japanese	Germans	Japanese	Germans	Japanese	Germans	
Those who came in the echelon	4445	1974	-	2223	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of prisoners from other camps in the republic	-	302	470	218	-	1937	181	318	-	123
Those from private hospitals	-	10	-	31	11	34	7	78	6	-
Total visitors	4445	2286	470	2472	11	1971	188	496	6	123
Returned to their homeland	-	327	446	-	2	415	22	5202	-	-
Sent to other camps in the country	-	-	-	-	-	24	23	-	-	-
Sent to other camps of the republic	15	1139	-	1660	261	45	204	1194	288	113
Sent to special hospitals	-	221	2	290	10	146	5	147	-	10
The dead (in the prison)	2	123	2	62	-	48	1	14	-	-
Arrested	-	23	-	10	-	7	1	3	3	-
Those who left the camp		1833	470	2022	293	685	256	6560	231	123
Those who stayed in the camp until the 01.01.		555	-	4778	293	6064	225	-	-	-

The management unit of prisoners camp No. 288 is located in the economic building of the construction department of Farkhodskaya HPP, which is responsible for the following buildings and structures:

In this camp, prisoners were kept in five sections. The first, third and fifth sections consisted of semi-basement-shaped cabins, while the fourth and sixth sections consisted of raw brick barracks. Heating through semi-basement and barracks ovens. Electricity was used as room lighting. All residential buildings were equipped with bunk beds of the wagon type, and the floors were made of cement concrete. The premises were plastered with sand plaster and whitewashed with lime.

Conditions in some camps were difficult. Such incidences are evident in the memory of prisoners in camps in Siberia: "Beds in barracks were made of thatch and beds were made of thatch also, and barracks accommodated up to 200 prisoners. Usually, two stoves for heating were installed in the

middle of the barracks in winter and there would be no electricity. We used white birches as firewood and constantly fought against fleas. The rooms were filled with the smell of sweat and the walls were stained with dead mites and fleas.

To supplement the living quarters, in each section of the camp: kitchen, dining room, room for clothing and disinfection, laundry, storage of food for up to ten days, clothing store, storage of vegetables, melons. there was a packing room for pickling, restroom, outpatient clinic, hospital near the camp, kitchen for diet food, buffet and shops. The camp had enough land for every prisoner. One prisoner had a living area from 2.2 to -3.9 m² [6].

The perimeter of all units of the 288th prisoner camp was surrounded by 18 wires behind the wall, each of which had 5 lines of warning and prohibition signs. The perimeter of the camp was illuminated by light bulbs, in addition to which some lamps could illuminate a large area. All campsites created flower gardens to turn the area into greenery, planted flowers and ornamental saplings, and built recreation shelters and volleyball courts.

The protection of the 288th Prisoner Camp was provided by the garrison of the 232nd Regiment of the 74th Guards Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. In order to prevent any escape of Prisoners from the camp and delay their capture in case of escape from the camp from the locals within 50 km from the camp, ambulance groups and regular briefings and military training were formed. During the operation in the prisoner camp, four of the prisoners attempted to escape, but effective operational and support teams captured them near the camp near Bekabad and transported them back to the camp. No serious protests or breaches of the order were observed during this period [7].

There were sometimes acts of propaganda, agitation and campaigning against the regime of that time among the prisoners of war. This happened in July 1946 in the 4th ward of the 288th prisoner camp. In this unit, a man named Vkamoto Yasuro gathered 14 prisoners around him under the excuse of participating in various clubs in his spare time and conducted interviews. The group's activities were soon uncovered and their promoter was arrested, questioned and punished accordingly. The group's activities were limited [8].

It was natural that such cases had taken place, since among the prisoners who had arrived in Uzbekistan there were officers who held senior positions in the Japanese army, such as the command headquarters.

The supply of food for the personnel and contingent of prisoners of war numbered 288, is supervised by the Central Military Supply Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior, as well as Military Base 28 of the Ministry of the Interior and Central Asian Military Supply, Bekabad, and other supply organizations in Tashkent. There were no interruptions or food supply problems throughout the camp.

The cultivation and supply of potatoes and vegetables for the camp staff and prisoners were carried out on the lands of the former 5th division, created in February 1946, on the lands of the 2nd division of the construction department of Farkhodskaya hydroelectric power station (formerly Dalvarzin). These lands are suitable for cultivation of various vegetables, belong to the rural area of Bekabad district of Tashkent region and are located 25 km from the camp administration.

Truck transporters of STZ type [9] (4 units) and UN-1 type [10] (2 units) were used for plowing agricultural land belonging to the camp (354 ha).

Prisoners in the camp were provided with appropriate clothing, including seasonal outerwear, underwear and seasonal shoes.

According to the order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR No. 57 of March 7, 1946 "To prevent spring colds and various diseases among prisoners of war, the camp commanders were instructed to provide and control waterproof shoes. In accordance with these guidelines, sewing rooms and shoe repair shops were established in each section of Camp 288 to provide and repair worn-out clothing and shoes in each camp.

The camp had 7 Studebaker trucks, 1 Reynolds ambulance and one M-1 car. The presence of trucks in the camp met the needs for food, clothing, fuel and vegetables required for daily consumption. Inside the camp, all units of the camp were assigned 15 heavy-duty trucks to carry food and household items. Economic entities provided the camp with fuel and coal annually. Camp units had a 2-3 month reserve [12].

On November 16, 1948 prisoner of war, No 288 was discharged by order 001358 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR because prisoners of war did not stay in the camp. All buildings belonging to the camp were handed over to economic organizations. There were no complaints during the dispersal of the camp.

3. CONCLUSION

Based on the above information and books of the memory of former prisoners of war who were in captivity, we can conclude that the situation in the camps was not very good in the first years after the end of the war. One reason was that an unexpectedly large inflow of prisoners of war was simultaneously brought to the camps in different parts of the country, which in turn caused several inconveniences. Famine on the road before the captives was brought to the camps, the cold climate in Russia, the

prisoners' bad clothes, the lack of sanitary standards during the trip, led to their exhaustion and various diseases. This continued even when they arrived at the camp, including from 1945 to mid-1946, which was observed in many camps, resulting in many prisoners dying from various diseases. In addition, Uzbekistan has a hot climate: German and Japanese prisoners try to keep them in better conditions than in the Far North, and the camps are close to where the prisoners have to work.

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3. Kok-Yangak (Kyrgyz: Kok-Zhangak) is a city in Jalal-Abad Oblast, Kyrgyzstan. By 1939, it was decided to build mine No. 40 in this area and it was installed on this site. In the same year, the Kok-Yangak mining administration was established, which was part of the Sredazshakhtostroy trust. [*Kok-Yangak (kirg. Kok-Chzhangak) - Qirgiziston Respublikasining Zhalol-Obod viloyatidagi viloyat bo'jsunuvidagi shahar. 1939 jilga kelib ushbu hududda 40-sonli shaxtani qurishga qaror qilindi va ushbu bo'limga o'rnatildi. Huddi shu jili \ "Sredazshakhtostroy\ " tresti tarkibiga kiruvchi \ "Ko'k-Yangak\ " kon boshqarmasi tashkil etildi.*].
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10. June 17, 1930 the first domestic serial tractor, wheeled agricultural tractor STZ-1 or STZ-15/30, came down from Stalingrad (STZ), now Volgograd (VGTZ) tractor factory. This day is also the birthday of the first specialized tractor plant in the USSR - STZ / VgTZ. A photo is provided in the appendix. [*1930 jil 17 iyunda birinchi mahallij ommavij ishlab chiqarish traktori, gildirakli qishloq xo'zhalik traktori STZ-1 yoki STZ-15/30, Stalingrad (STZ) konveeridan, hozirgi Volgograd (VgTZ) traktor zavodidan chiqdi. Ushbu kun shuningdek, SSSR dagi birinchi ihtisoslashtirilgan traktor zavodi - STZ / VgTZ tugilgan kuni hisoblanadi.*].
11. From 1934 to 1940 it was produced under the brand "universal" at the plant "Krasny Putilovets" in Leningrad. Due to the difficulties of the war years it continued to produce tractors after a break, but from 1944 to 1955 VTZDA was the first tractor produced at the Vladimir Tractor Plant. It had 22 horsepower. [*1934-jildan 1940-jilgacha Leningradda \ "Krasnij Putilovec\ " zavodida \ "universal\ " markasi bilan ishlab chiqarildi. Urush jillarinining qijinchiliklari tufajli tanaffusdan so'ng traktor ishlab chiqarishni davom ettirdi, biroq 1944-*]

jildan 1955-jilgacha ishlab chiqarilgan VTZDA Vladimir traktor zavodida ishlab chiqarilgan bиринчи traktorga ajlandi. U 22 ot kuchiga ega edi].

12. Russian state military archive (RSMA), f. 1, i.15a, f.230, p.3.

APPENDIX

1. RGVA / (*Rossijskij gosudarstvennyj voennyj arhiv*) – RSMA / Russian state military archive
2. f. – fund
3. op. – inventory
4. d. – file
5. s. – page